

Serial No. 10/594,903
 Docket No. US01-06068PCT
 FUJI.087

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A routing guide system for displaying an image of a predetermined guide point ~~on~~ along a ~~traveling~~ road ~~of being traveled by~~ a mobile body, said routing guide system comprising:

a storage means device installed outside said mobile body, for storing data of images at a plurality of guide points;

a distance detection means module in a processor, for detecting a distance from a current position of said mobile body to a next guide point;

an image request generation means module in said processor, for making an image request for said next guide point when the distance detected by said distance detection ~~means~~ module becomes a first predetermined distance or less;

~~transmission means~~ a communication relay device installed outside said mobile body, for ~~reading the~~ receiving an image of said next guide point retrieved from said storage ~~means~~ device in response to said image request, and ~~sending~~ transmitting the image to said mobile body; and

a display control means module, for causing said mobile body to receive the image transmitted from said ~~transmission means~~ communication relay device[[,]] and causing a display device to display the image,

wherein:

said mobile body is comprises a vehicle,

said distance detection ~~means~~ module and said image request generation ~~means~~ module are installed in a terminal device mounted in said vehicle, along with said display ~~means~~ device and said display control ~~means~~ module,

said storage ~~means~~ device and ~~transmission means are~~ said communication relay device ~~comprise~~ elements of a system including a server, installed outside said vehicle, a camera is provided in said terminal device,

said terminal device further comprises a ~~transmission unit~~ radio device for sending ~~the~~ an image in front of the vehicle captured by said camera to said server along with additional information comprising the current position of said vehicle, a heading direction of said vehicle, and said next guide point, when the distance detected by said distance detection ~~means~~ module becomes not more than a ~~third~~ second predetermined distance that is shorter than said ~~second~~ first predetermined distance, and

said server comprises:

a receive ~~means~~ module, for receiving the image and additional information transmitted from said ~~transmission unit~~ radio device of said terminal device via said communication relay device;

an image judgment ~~means~~ module, for determining whether an image that satisfies image conditions including the current position, heading direction, and guide point, specified in the additional information received by said receive ~~means~~ module, is stored in said storage ~~means~~ device;

a set of storage instructions, ~~means~~ for storing the data of image received by said receive ~~means~~ module into said storage ~~means~~ device when said image judgment ~~means~~ module determines that the image that satisfies said image conditions is not found in said storage ~~means~~ device;

an identification degree setting ~~means~~ module, for setting an identification degree of a guide point indicated by an image received by said receive ~~means~~ module according to said received image;

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a target object judgment means module, for applying a matching process between the existing image stored in said storage means device and said received image when said image judgment means module determines that the image satisfying said image conditions exists in said storage means device, so as to determine whether a target object at the guide point has changed; and

a set of storage instructions, means for storing data of said received image into said storage means device if said target object judgment means module determines that the target object at the guide point has changed.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The routing guide system according to claim 1, wherein said image request includes the current position of said mobile body, a heading direction of said mobile body, and the next guide point as information.

4. (Currently Amended) The routing guide system according to claim 3, wherein said terminal device further comprises a route setting means module in said processor, for setting a route from the current position of the vehicle to ~~the~~ a destination, and said distance detection means module measures the distance from the current position of the vehicle to the next guide point on the route being set by said route setting means module.

5. (Currently Amended) The routing guide system according to claim 3, wherein said terminal device further comprises [[a]] said camera, for capturing ~~an~~ the image in front of the vehicle, and said display control means module causes said display device to display the

image in front of said vehicle captured by said camera when the distance detected by said distance detection ~~means~~ module becomes not more than a ~~second~~ third predetermined distance that is shorter than said first predetermined distance.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The routing guide system according to claim 1, wherein said server further comprises:

an identification degree judgment ~~means~~ module for determining whether ~~the~~ an identification degree of said received image is higher than the identification degree of said existing image if said target object judgment ~~means~~ module determines that the target object at the guide point has not changed; and

a ~~means~~ set of storage instructions, for storing data of said received image in said storage ~~means~~ device if said identification degree judgment ~~means~~ module determines that the identification degree of said received image is higher than the identification degree of said existing image.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A server for managing an image of a predetermined guide point ~~on~~ along a traveling road being traveled by a vehicle, said server comprising:

an interface to a storage ~~means~~ device;

a receiving ~~means~~ module for receiving ~~the~~ an image from a terminal device provided in the vehicle;

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an identification degree setting ~~means~~ module for setting an identification degree of a guide point indicated by the image received by said receiving ~~means~~ module according to said received image;

a target object judgment ~~means~~ module for applying a matching process between an existing image stored in said storage ~~means~~ device and said received image, when ~~the~~ an image satisfying an image condition exists in said storage ~~means~~ device, so as to determine whether a target object at the guide point has changed, said image condition being included in additional information appended to said received image; and

a set of storage instructions, means for storing data of said received image in said storage ~~means~~ device together with the identification degree of the guide point, if said target object judgment ~~means~~ module determines that the target object at the guide point has changed.

12. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 11, further comprising:

an identification degree determination ~~means~~ module for determining whether an identification degree of the received image is higher than an identification degree of the existing image, if the target object ~~judgement~~ judgment means determines that the target object at the guide point has not changed; and

a set of storage instructions, means for storing data of said received image in said storage ~~means~~ device together with the identification degree of the guide point, if said identification degree determination ~~means~~ module determines that the identification degree of the received image is higher than the identification degree of the existing image.

13. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 11, wherein said image condition

includes ~~the~~ a current position of said vehicle, a heading direction of said vehicle, and the guide point.

14. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 11, further comprising ~~transmission means~~ an interface to a communication relay device, for ~~reading~~ receiving an image of a next guide point retrieved from the storage ~~means~~ device, said communication relay device and transmitting the image of the next guide point to said terminal device in response to an image request generated from said terminal device, when a distance from the current position of said vehicle to the guide point is within a first predetermined distance.

15. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 14, wherein the image received by said receiving ~~means~~ module from said terminal device is comprises an image in front of said vehicle captured by a camera provided at said terminal device, when the distance from the current position of the vehicle to the next guide point is within a second predetermined distance which is shorter than said first predetermined distance.

16. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 11, further comprising a set of storage instructions, ~~means~~ for storing data of said received image in said storage ~~means~~ device together with the identification degree of the guide point, if the image satisfying the image condition does not exist in the storage ~~means~~ device.